

YELLOW LIGHT ON GREEN JOBS

Green Jobs and the New Economy Subcommittee Ranking Member Kit Bond Executive Summary

Some see green jobs as a cure-all for the Nation's ills, transforming the environment and the economy, even heralding a new era of prosperity for underemployed urban and poor communities.

However, State and local governments are spending tens of millions of dollars to attract in some cases only a few hundred new green jobs. Green jobs subsidies are costing over \$100,000 per job in many cases. Created green jobs often offer sub-par wages insufficient to support a family.

Studies by green jobs advocates, labor unions and environmental groups confirm that many green jobs:

- require expensive taxpayer subsidies to create
- pay low wages
- kill existing jobs to pay for creating new green jobs

To pay for expensive green jobs programs and subsidies, green jobs advocates propose government spending of hundreds of billions of dollars.

Some even suggest passage of climate change legislation as a way to generate revenue to pay for green jobs. However, imposing climate change legislation would cost families and communities trillions of dollars in higher energy costs and kill millions of jobs in manufacturing and energy-intensive sectors.

All of these green jobs creation problems and pitfalls signal a yellow light urging caution with green jobs. Lessons for policymakers include:

- Do not kill existing jobs to create green jobs
- Avoid expensive green jobs taxpayer subsidies and programs
- Promote green jobs that make economic sense